

PJ Dougherty Remarks

Illinois Wind Workshop
Lisle, Illinois

November 27, 2001

Thank you for your kind introduction and for having me here today. Thank you to all the co-sponsors, organizers and participants here today. In particular, let me share a big thank you to our wind team here in Chicago Regional Office and the effort they put in to bring us together today. In particular Bill Hui, our Wind Powering America contact here in the region and Gary Nowakowski, team lead for renewables. Let me also thank my old colleague Peter Dreyfuss, who now heads the Chicago Regional Office and who I enjoyed working with in Washington. It is a pleasure to spend time with all of you.

These folks and many others, including the 400 participants in the audience, all spent a lot of time preparing for today's conference, and all with one goal...to examine the opportunity to pursue wind development in Illinois as well as develop the market for that power. It is fair to say that there is significant interest in this state in wind power and that each of us here may be coming at this from different drivers, including:

- diversifying the generation portfolio;
- stabilizing electricity prices;
- cleaner air;
- economic benefits from project development;
- harvesting this vast wind resource as a new crop here and in the region.

Throughout the day we will hear from experts on each of these points. Some have been involved in wind energy development for years while others are new to the field. All share a common view based on a few demonstrated facts:

- wind energy is a competitive power generation technology today and will continue to get more competitive;
- wind energy is the fastest growing source of electricity in the world;
- there is a strong and building market for wind power in the U.S. and internationally;
- wind makes economic sense and is good for business.

The Wind Powering America team is proud to be part of today's effort. Our charge for past two years has been and continues to be quite simple – work to increase the percentage of wind power in the generation mix. We do so by:

- raising the awareness of what wind energy is and is not and what its development can bring to a

community, state or region;

- sponsoring wind workshops like today and like we've done in 11 other states, including Kansas, Nebraska, Montana, Oklahoma, West Virginia and Massachusetts;
- co-funding resource assessments and wind maps like we did here in Illinois and like we've done in North and South Dakota, Idaho, New York and will do in 8 more states this year;
- examining new models of wind project ownership, finance & investment and applications with rural electric cooperatives and public power organizations and members in the Northwest, the Plains states, and hopefully here in the Midwest;
- by promoting federal and state sector purchases of renewables through load aggregations, efficiency savings and the purchase of new electricity products like renewable energy certificates, which we did in Denver and are exploring at the DOE-complex level;
- by spreading the message beyond traditional crowd to those that we have not reached including our nation's black farmers and rural landowners, like we did in Oklahoma and New Mexico, as well as potential end-users in our urban Communities of Color;
- focused outreach and technical assistance to our Tribal partners in the Plains states and out west;
- by illustrating to politicians, power producers, business leaders, ratepayers and citizens that one can do wind projects in your area and still win reelections, make money, pay a reasonable rate for power and still have a good life;
- giving people the information they need to make an informed decision on moving forward in wind development;

What's the benefit of this work, should you decide to undertake it? In general, it means:

- \$1 million per MW installed in capital investment and approximately \$3000 per turbine per year sited on your land;
- jobs in the emerging wind industry, both in construction and in M&O down the road;
- new sources of tax revenues for our counties and states;
- significant investment in our rural towns and communities and an increased quality of life for the families that live in them.

This is not an easy task though the benefits are large. This is not something the government can do alone...not something industry can do alone...not something people in advocacy groups and NGOs can do alone...not something that thinking good thoughts will do alone. This takes work, takes resources, and most important it takes commitment. The size of today's crowd and the caliber of participants sends a strong message of commitment to wind development here in Illinois.

We want to work with you, your colleagues, your business leaders and elected officials and citizens to do a few things:

- engage all elements of power production, supply, and regulation to examine the barriers, both technical and non-technical to integrating wind power into the grid;

- work with local, county, state planning authorities to review siting requirements that can help or hurt wind development;
- engage both advocacy groups as well as those that may still be on the fence about wind power to do the critical outreach and share the message of what wind development can offer a community;
- work with developers to share the story of Illinois' wind resource;
- work with local and state politicians as they begin to move forward in investing public funds in renewable generation;
- explore using other potential sources of funding such as fines from environmental non-compliance to either build or buy wind in the communities most affected by the non-compliance in the first place;
- explore wind measurement with your neighboring states that will soon look to Illinois as the regional leader in wind development; and
- promote small wind systems here and in Michigan, bringing us full circle to our past and building on the regional legacy of using wind power.

With your commitment we will do these things together, should you decide to move forward as a group. If you do, we will be proud to say that Illinois is a strong partner and national leader in Wind Powering America.

Thank you very much and best wishes on your endeavor.